

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 185482

FOLLOWING REPEAT NEW DELHI 10900 ACTION SECSTATE 18 SEP

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10900

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, CH, XT

SUBJ: DALIA LAMA'S VISIT TO EUROPE

REF: NEW DELHI 10379

1. THE DALAI LAMA'S BROTHER, GYALO THONDUP, CALLED ON AN EMBASSY OFFICER SEPTEMBER 17 TO FILL US IN ON THE DALAI LAMA'S TRIP TO EUROPE. HE SAID THE TRIP WAS NOW FIRM. THE DALAI LAMA WOULD LEAVE INDIA SEPTEMBER 29 AND WOULD FOLLOW ROUGHLY THE ITINERARY OUTLINED REFTTEL. AS NOW SCHEDULED, THE TRIP WOULD TAKE ABOUT SIX WEEKS, BUT IT MIGHT BE CUT BACK SOMEWHAT. AUSTRIA WAS THE ONLY COUNTRY ON THE ITINERARY THAT HAD NOT YET AGREED TO THE DALAI LAMA'S VISIT.

2. THONDUP SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE CHINESE HAD PROTESTED ABOUT THE TRIP TO ALL THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES INVOLVED EXCEPT IRELAND
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WITH WHICH THE PRC DOES NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. SOURCES

IN THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY HERE TOLD THONDUP THE CHINESE ASKED THE INDIANS NOT TO LET THE DALAI LAMA MAKE THE TRIP AND SAID IT WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS IF THE INDIANS LET HIM GO. THE INDIANS RESPONDED THAT THE TRIP WAS NON-POLITICAL AND THAT THERE WAS NO WAY THEY COULD PROHIBIT REFUGEES RESIDENT IN INDIA FROM TRAVELING ABROAD.

3. THONDUP EMPHASIZED THAT THE DALAI LAMA'S TRAVEL WOULD BE ENTIRELY PRIVATE AND THAT THE TIBETANS WOULD SCRUPULOUSLY AVOID ANY ANTI-CHINESE PLAY ON THE TRIP. HE MENTIONED IN PASSING THAT IF THIS TRIP WENT WELL HE HOPED IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IN TWO OR THREE YEARS FOR THE DALAI LAMA TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA. THE EMBASSY OFFICER GAVE NO RESPONSE TO THIS POINT.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO OTHER POSTS AS DESIRED.
SCHNEIDER
UNQUOTE RUSH

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